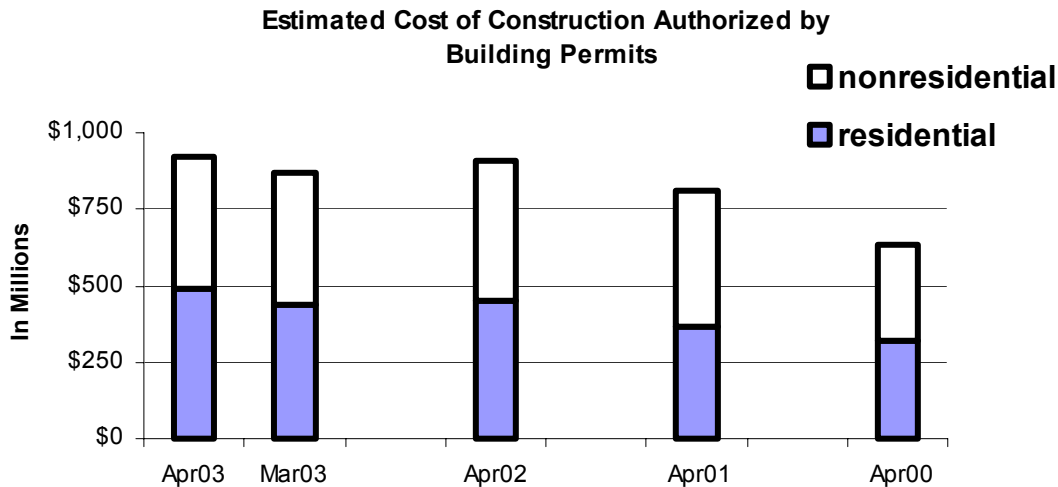


APRIL 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

New houses and additions or alterations to existing dwellings accounted for \$491.4 million of construction authorized by building permits in April. This was 53.4 percent of the \$919.9 million reported. The estimated cost of work on nonresidential buildings was \$428.5 million, 46.6 percent of the estimated cost of all authorized work; 517 municipalities reported.

April's activity was 5.8 percent more than last month and 1.5 percent more than April 2002. Compared to previous years, residential construction has accounted for a larger proportion of total construction activity. In April 2002, residential work comprised about half of all the work authorized by building permits. In April 2001, the proportion was only 45.1 percent.



Top Municipalities

“State Buildings” refers to a group of building permits issued on behalf of New Jersey State government agencies or instruments of the State. Examples of these agencies are New Jersey Transit or various State colleges and universities. The work authorized may occur in any municipality in New Jersey and is typically for large-scale, public improvements. In April 2003, the State Building category of building permits accounted for \$48.6 million of work, more than any single municipality. Most of this work was for new facilities at Ramapo College in Mahwah Township, Bergen County. New construction permits were issued for a new sports and recreational center with an estimated construction cost of \$19.8 million, and for a student housing complex with an estimated cost of \$20.1 million. Also breaking ground in April was a new ambulatory-care center, with an estimated cost of \$7 million, for the University of Medicine and Dentistry.

Among localities, Princeton Township in Mercer County had the most work, \$32.6 million. Nearly all of this was for additions to elementary and middle schools. Atlantic City in Atlantic County had \$31.1 million, of which about two-thirds was for work continued from last year to build the new Resorts Casino Hotel. East Brunswick Township in Middlesex County had \$20.4 million of construction, \$15 million of which was for the shell of a new multifamily development. When complete, the structure will have about 160 condominiums for people aged 55 and over. Dover Township in Ocean County had nearly \$18 million of construction comprised of several big projects, the largest of which was a \$4.6-million, 28-unit housing development. Watchung Borough in Somerset County had \$17.8 million of construction. The two largest permits were \$11 million for a new WAL★MART and \$6.6 million for an addition to an elementary school.

